

PERSONAL INFORMATION



Akarsh Venkatasubramanian

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Global health researcher, science diplomat, biomedical engineer and int'l civil servant (& yoga teacher) enabling equitable, inclusive & responsible digital health and innovation through evidence, data & intelligence, to help countries attain UN SDGs & UHC.

Work experience from international organizations, research, government, civil society and private sector; across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Achievements include over ten publications; being the youngest Technical Officer (P2), ILO HQ; managing health projects over \$35mn; and MIT (ITGH) inaugural fellow, technology & global health.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

November 2018 – present	Consultant (multiple) – Health Innovation, HIEx & UNAIDS , Switzerland Digital health policy recommendations for HIV and COVID-19. Co-founded The GRAPH Network
September 2022 – present	Adjunct Faculty, Institute de Santé Globale, University of Geneva , Switzerland Teaching 'Digital Health and Innovation' to the Master of Science in Global Health
May 2022 – January 2023	Project Lead, Digital Health, UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health , Portugal Led global research & policy on Political Action Plans with 250+ parliamentarians, 80+ countries
August 2021 – May 2022	Research Fellow, Institute for Technology & Global Health, MIT , United States Inaugural fellow; research on global technology governance and rights-based health innovation
January 2021 – August 2021	Technical Officer, Equality & Nondiscrimination, International Labour Organization , Switzerland Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch; HIV-COVID country policy analysis. Youngest P2.
March 2020 – Dec 2020 and July 2021 – March 2022	Data Policy Manager & Data Governance Advisor, Transform Health Coalition , United States Led development of Health Data Governance Principles ; focus: digital health thought leadership
September 2019 – Dec 2020	Project Manager and Research Associate, I-DAIR , Switzerland First employee, Int'l Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative; hosted at the Graduate Institute
Sept 2019 – Sept 2020 and July 2021 – March 2022	Intern & Consultant, Digital Health, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria , Switzerland Digital health country innovation mapping to clarify ~35 country capacities and investment
February 2018 – August 2018	Researcher, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Amazonas , Colombia Studying disease transmission dynamics in indigenous communities, Amazon basin
September 2016 – Sept 2017	New Product Development Engineer, CURA Healthcare , India Identification & implementation of innovation needs in critical care technologies in rural India

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

September 2017 – Sept 2019	Master of Science, Global Health University of Geneva , Switzerland Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) , USA. Specialization: Health Innovation Boston University School of Public Health , USA. Specialization: Public Policy Thesis: Technology Innovation for the SDGs: An Impact Innovation Model, with EPFL
August 2012 – August 2016	Bachelor of Technology, Biomedical Engineering Manipal University , India Thesis: Diagnostic immunosuppressant analysis w/ liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry Editor-in-Chief, Biomedical Engineering Society of India Manipal Chapter

Curriculum Vitae

SPECIALIZED SKILLS, ACHIEVEMENTS and more

Professional references

- Mr Pradeep Kakkattil. Founder [Health Innovation Exchange](#); former Director for Innovations, UNAIDS. pkakkattil@hiex.ch.
- Mr Kofi Amekudzi. Technical Specialist, Equality and Nondiscrimination, ILO. amekudzi@ilo.org.
- Dr Sara (Meg) Davis. Professor, University of Warwick & Director, Digital Health and Rights Project. sara.davis@graduateinstitute.ch.
- Other references include Amb Amandeep Gill (UN Under-Secretary General & UNSG Envoy on Technology); HE Michael Møller (former Under Secretary-General, UN & Director-General, UNOG); and Members of Parliament Hon Dr Amar Patnaik (India), Hon Dr Ricardo Baptista Leite (Portugal, & CEO, I-DAIR) and Hon Neema Lugangira (Tanzania).

Journal reviewer

- Nature Scientific Reports
- British Medical Journal: BMJ Global Health
- Oxford Open Digital Health (also contributor and op-ed writer)
- The Lancet Public Health
- American Journal of Public Health

Select public speaking

- [Think Tank Talk : Health Data Exchange in times of COVID-19](#); Foraus and Swiss FDFA
- [International collaboration in digital health: challenges & opportunities](#); QI Forum 2020

Conference presentations

- 'Eco-epidemiology and transmission dynamics of seasonal waterborne diseases in the Colombian Amazon' presented at American Public Health Association 2019
- 'Interdisciplinary approaches towards health and wellbeing for all: a snapshot from India' presented as a poster at Geneva Health Forum 2018
- 'A new stent retriever for cure of acute ischaemic stroke' selected for presentation at international conference Cardiology-2015, Omics International
- Co-organized Workshop as Scientific Secretary on "Community health workers and the digital revolution: How is it transforming healthcare?" at Geneva Health Forum 2018
- Represented University of Geneva at Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of States Parties 2018
- Organised consultations at Intelligent Health Summit, 2019; NZZ Future Health, 2020; Basel

Certifications

- Readings in Global Health, Harvard University, USA, May 2017
- Global Health Diplomacy, State University of New York, USA, Feb 2017 (selected as Mentor)
- Certified Educator, Duolingo

Professional Affiliations

- United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs: Space and Global Health working group
- American Public Health Association (+ Policy and Advocacy Committee)
- Santé Publique Suisse
- European Public Health Association

Digital Skills

- Knowledge of STATA, R, Matlab, C, C++, Ansys, Arduino, Processing
- Experience with Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and Mac OS X

Mother tongue(s)

Other languages

Tamil

English: Proficient user – reading, writing and speaking

Hindi: Proficient user – reading, writing and speaking

French: Independent user – reading, writing and speaking

Spanish: Independent user – reading, writing and speaking

Portuguese: Basic user – speaking

Interests

Chess - currently an international player (India)

Football (soccer) analysis – work on performance analysis

Mountaineering – experienced trekker across Nepal, Argentina, Switzerland

Yoga – internationally certified teacher

Publications list: Akarsh Venkatasubramanian

- Akarsh Venkatasubramanian, 2023. A digital health trust framework guided by values from the science of yoga, *Oxford Open Digital Health*, Volume 1, 2023, oqad007. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oodh/oqad007>.
- Akarsh Venkatasubramanian, Amar Patnaik, 2023. National digital health legislation: lessons and recommendations, *Oxford Open Digital Health*, Vol 1, oqad008. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oodh/oqad008>.
- [Venkatasubramanian A. \(2020\). The Human Rights Challenges of Digital COVID-19 Surveillance. *Health and human rights*, 22\(2\), 79–84.](#)
- Velásquez, S. R., ..., Venkatasubramanian, A., et al (2021). The toll of COVID-19 on sub-Saharan African children. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 110, 457–465. [www.ijidonline.com/S1201-9712\(21\)](http://www.ijidonline.com/S1201-9712(21)).
- Dalal J,..., Venkatasubramanian, A, et al, (2021). [COVID-19 mortality in women and men in sub-Saharan Africa: a cross-sectional study](#). *BMJ Global Health* 2021;6:e007225.
- [Venkatasubramanian A. \(2020\). The case for health data regulations | IHEID](#). *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies*. 2020:06.
- Amekudzi K, Venkatasubramanian A, et al, (2021). The ILO Global HIV Discrimination in the World of Work survey. *International Labour Organization*. https://www.ilo.org/.../publication/wcms_830545.pdf
- Venkatasubramanian, A et al (2021). Health Data Governance Principles. *Transform Health* 2021:12. <http://healthdatapinciples.org/principles>.
- Venkatasubramanian, A. (2021). [Making the case for stronger health data governance](#). *Transform Health*.
- Venkatasubramanian, A., Hsu, C., Diamond, M., Hilali, I., Fegert, M., (2020). [Digital health and Covid-19: Key lessons for a broader conversation about global health data governance](#). *Foraus* 2020:04.
- Venkatasubramanian, A. (2020). Digital health and artificial intelligence research: An international collaborative to reach UHC. In *APHA's 2020 VIRTUAL Annual Meeting and Expo*.
- Venkatasubramanian, A. (2019). Ecoepidemiology and transmission dynamics of seasonal waterborne diseases in the Colombian Amazon. *American Public Health Association*: [Paper/451291](#).
- Farhan, H., Dugan, A., Amekudzi, K., Zug, B., ... & Venkatasubramanian, A. (2022). [L'enquête mondiale de l'OIT sur la discrimination liée au VIH dans le monde du travail](#). *International Labour Organization*.
- Farhan, H., Dugan, A., Amekudzi, K., Zug, B., ... & Venkatasubramanian, A. (2022). [Encuesta global de la OIT sobre la discriminación por el VIH en el mundo del trabajo](#). *International Labour Organization*.
- Book chapter: Technology Innovation for Global Health: Presenting the journey so far, and an Innovation Roadmap for the future; in the book: *Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond*; publication by Elsevier in October 2023.
- Mahindra et al, 2020. [Paper card-based vs application-based vaccine credentials: a comparison](#).
- Raskar, R. et al (2020). Apps gone rogue: Maintaining personal privacy in an epidemic. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2003.08567*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.08567>.
- Natarajan, A. et al (2022). An exploratory overview of COVID-19 vaccine on the basis of technology, trust, privacy and social impact. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/358716725>.
- [The ILO's role on digital technologies, human rights and social protection](#). ILO, July 2021.
- Venkatasubramanian et al. (2021). [UNAIDS and the future of global health governance](#). (imminent)